

ABSTRACT

Foot enclosing footwear having the wearing experience and comfort of sandals are comprised of a sole and an upper each having a front portion extending from approximately the ball of the foot forward to the toes of the foot and a back portion extending from approximately the ball of the foot rearward to the heel of the foot. The front portion of the upper is affixed to the front portion of the sole and encompasses the front portion of the foot. The back portion of the upper encompasses the back portion of the foot and is not affixed to the sole. Rather, the back portion of the upper is free of the sole and free to move in an arc relative to the sole. Consequently, the upper is free to flex without requiring the sole to flex, thereby providing the walking sensation of a sandal while fully enclosing the foot. The footwear may be of substantially any style or appearance from dress shoes to boots.